

NE On page 21, line 16, delete "application" and insert -- applications --.

NE On page 24, line 2, after "tend", insert -- to --.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 12-15, 21, and 23 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method comprising:

calling a scheduling driver to start an Input/Output (I/O) request to a device [for an application];

determining if the device is busy; and

if the device is not busy,

providing an estimated processing time (EPT) for the I/O request to be completed [for the application].

7. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising, providing the I/O

operation results from the I/O request [to the application] if the I/O request has been completed.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising, calculating an estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) for the I/O request to be completed, if the I/O request has not been completed, and providing the estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) [to the application]

12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising calculating an estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be available [to the application] if the device is busy, and providing the estimated amount of time left (EATL) [to the application].

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

2 sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

3 calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application]

4 after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

5 determining if the device is still busy.

1 14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

2 determining if the device is still busy and calculating the estimated amount of time left

3 (EATL) until the device will be available, if the device is still busy;

4 sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

5 calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application],

6 after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

7 if the I/O request has not been started,

8 repetitively performing the above operations until the I/O request has been started.

1 15. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions,  
2 which when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform operations comprising:

3 calling a scheduling driver to start an Input/Output (I/O) request to a device [for the  
4 application];

5 determining if the device is busy; and

6 if the device is not busy,

7 providing an estimated processing time (EPT) for the I/O request to be completed [for the  
8 application].

AS  
Sub 27  
1 21. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising the  
2 operation of providing the I/O operation results from the I/O request [to the application] if the I/O  
3 request has been completed.

AS  
Sub 27  
1 23. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 19, further comprising the  
2 operations of calculating an estimated processing time remaining (EPTR) for the I/O request to  
3 be completed, if the I/O request has not been completed, and providing the estimated processing  
4 time remaining (EPTR) [to the application].

Sub 27  
1 26. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 15, further comprising the  
2 operations of calculating an estimated amount of time left (EATL) until the device will be  
3 available [to the application] if the device is busy, and providing the estimated amount of time  
4 left (EATL) [to the application].

1 27. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, further comprising the  
2 operations of:  
3 sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);  
4 calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application]  
5 after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and  
6 determining if the device is still busy.

1 28. (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 27, further comprising  
2 performing the operations of:  
3 determining if the device is still busy and calculating the estimated amount of time left  
4 (EATL) until the device will be available, if the device is still busy;

AM 5  
cont  
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Sub  
sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL);

calling the scheduling driver to start the I/O request to the device [for the application],

after sleeping for the estimated amount of time left (EATL); and

if the I/O request has not been started,

repetetively performing the above operations until the I/O request has been started.

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**CONCLUSION**

Please enter the amendments for the following claims: 1, 7, 9, 12-15, 21, 23, and 26-28.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached at our Costa Mesa office by telephone at (714) 557-3800. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Dated: July 31, 2000

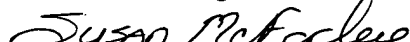


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*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: July 31, 2000.*

  
Susan McFarlane

07/31/00  
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